

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): For an information retrieval system coupled to at least one commodity analysis system configured to analyze at least one commodity to generate commodity data comprising at least one commodity characteristic, a method of managing the commodity data for a chain of production in which one or more commodities are used in one or more production steps, the method comprising: updating the at least one commodity analysis system to maintain the currency of the commodity analysis system; receiving the commodity data from the at least one commodity analysis system for discrete quantities of at least one commodity used or produced by the chain of production; storing the commodity data to the information retrieval system; and determining commodity information in accordance with the contents of the information retrieval system.

Claim 2 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one commodity comprises one of an agricultural commodity, an aqua cultural commodity, an industrial commodity, a biological commodity and a pharmaceutical commodity.

Claim 3 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the production steps comprise one or more of acquiring, blending, refining, and transporting the discrete quantities and wherein the commodity data is generated in response to a production step.

Claim 4 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 including providing the commodity information to determine a use of at least a portion of at least one of the discrete quantities in the chain of production.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the use is defined in accordance with a standard responsive to one or more commodity characteristics.

Claim 6 (original): The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the standard defines one of an identity preservation program, a specialty trait tracking program and a food safety certification program.

Claim 7 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said determining commodity information includes tracing commodity data for particular discrete quantities as said quantities flow through said chain of production.

Claim 8 (original): The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein instances of said commodity data are generated for a particular discrete quantity as the quantity flows through the chain of production and wherein said tracing comprises associating said instances of the commodity data with one another in the information retrieval system.

Claim 9 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one commodity characteristic includes at least one of a measured characteristic of the particular discrete quantity and a secondary characteristic determined for the particular discrete quantity.

Claim 10 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the commodity data includes one or more source data identifying characteristics of the source of the commodity.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein updating comprises transmitting to the at least one commodity analysis system at least one of a software update, a lease update, and a data update.

Claim 13 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1 including providing a user interface for obtaining commodity information determined from commodity data stored to the information retrieval system.

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Claims 14-83 (canceled)